

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4456

FOR ASST SECRETARY RAY FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: USEGJC OSCITPHY EG

SUBJECT: JWG ON TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

1. I WANT TO EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION FOR YOUR HAVING AGREED TO SERVE AS THE CHAIRMAN FOR THE JOINT US-EGYPTIAN WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT. I BELIEVE THAT THIS WORKING GROUP OFFERS GREAT POTENTIAL FOR LONG-TERM COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND EGYPT. I AM SENDING A SEPARATE MESSAGE WHICH DESCRIBES PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WHICH WE HAVE HAD WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION REGARDING THE AGENDA OF THE JWG. I BELIEVE IT OFFERS A BASIS FOR BEGINNING OUR OWN GOVERNMENT DELIBERATIONS ON OUR APPROACH TO THE JWG SESSION. AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE BEEN PLAGUED BY A LACK OF FUNDS IN IMPLEMENTING COOPERATION UNDER THIS JWG. WHILE THIS IS A SERIOUS CONSTRAINT ON DEVELOPING LONG TERM PROJECTS, I BELIEVE THERE ARE STILL MANY INITIATIVES WE CAN TAKE IN TERMS OF SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL EXCHANGES. OUR EXPERTISE IS THE UNIQUE ELEMENT IN OUR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND THE GOAL OF HAVING OUR SCIENTISTS MEET AND EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS IS THE MAIN GOAL OF THIS JWG. I WOULD LIKE THEREFORE TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME AREAS WHICH I BELIEVE WOULD OFFER PROSPECTS FOR FURTHER COOPERATION.

2. FIRST, WITH THE LIKELIHOOD THAT WE WILL BE SIGNING AN
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AGREEMENT FOR NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. I

BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD ESTABLISH SOME FORM OF LOW LEVEL TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION BETWEEN OUR AEC AND THE EGYPTIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION. THE EGYPTIAN ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS, WHICH IS INDICATIVE OF THEIR INTEREST IN THIS FIELD. PERHAPS THERE IS SOME FORM OF UPGRADING OF THEIR TRAINING PROGRAMS AND EXCHANGE OF SCIENTISTS WHICH WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED.

3. SECOND, WHILE EGYPT POSSESSES RELATIVELY LARGE POOL OF TRAINED SCIENTIFIC PERSONNEL, THERE ARE CLEARLY GOING TO BE REQUIREMENTS IN THE FUTURE TO UPGRADE THIS VALUABLE RESOURCE. THERE IS NOW A GENERATION OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS WHO ARE ONLY VICARIOUSLY ACQUAINTED WITH AMERICAN TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN EFFORT MADE ON THE PART OF ALL APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND ON THE PART OF PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS TO HAVE QUALIFIED EGYPTIANS INCLUDED IN AS MUCH SPECIALIZED TRAINING AS CAN POSSIBLY BE FUNDED. I REALIZE THAT IN MANY CASES PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS OR COMMERCIAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE INVOLVED IN SUCH TRAINING. I BELIEVE HOWEVER, THAT SUCH A PROCESS WILL SERVE NOT ONLY EGYPT BUT OUR OWN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE IN THAT IT WILL MAINTAIN THE MANPOWER POOL ON WHICH WE CURRENTLY DEPEND FOR OUR RESEARCH AND WILL ONCE AGAIN ORIENT EGYPTIAN SCIENTISTS TOWARD AMERICAN IDEAS.

4. THIRD, AS YOU KNOW, WE HAVE NEGOTIATED AND YOU WILL SIGN AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY. TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THE RESEARCH PROGRAMS WHICH ARE ALREADY BEING CARRIED OUT BY THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES WILL BECOME THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT. I BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT A FURTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO IDENTIFY PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE CARRIED OUT SPECIFICALLY UNDER THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT. IN THIS CONNECTION, I AM THINKING OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MINING AND MINERALS CODE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT. MINERAL EXPLOITATION WILL, OVER THE NEXT TWO DECADES BE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN EGYPT. I BELIEVE THAT OUR OWN US GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS HAVE THE EXPERTISE TO ADVISE THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT ON HOW TO ESTABLISH A

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TECHNOLOGICALLY SOUND MINERAL EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION SYSTEM. STEPS SHOULD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BE TAKEN TO INCLUDE THE PROVISION OF OUR EXPERTS IN A JOINT US/EGYPTIAN COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP A MINERAL CODE.

5. I HOPE THAT THESE SUGGESTIONS WILL BE HELPFUL TO YOU IN PREPARATION FOR THE MEETINGS.
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